

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 04133 110825Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, NP
SUBJECT: NEPALESE PRESS REACTION TO BOEING REVELATIONS

1. NEPALESE PRESS, EVEN IF A LITTLE BELATEDLY, HAS CAUGHT UP WITH THE REVELATION THAT NEPAL WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES IN WHICH BOEING AIRCRAFT CORPORATION SAYS IT MADE ILLEGAL PAYMENTS TO PROMOTE AIRCRAFT SALES. THE STORY HAS NOW BEGUN TO ATTRACT MAJOR PUBLIC ATTENTION HERE AND PROMISES TO ASSUME THE PROPORTIONS OF A FULL-BLOWN SCANDAL.

2. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED EDITORIALS ON THE SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH TWO OF THE MAJOR PAPERS, THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SEMI-OFFICIAL "THE RISING NEPAL" AND ITS NEPALI-LANGUAGE SISTER, "GORKHAPATRA", HAVE SO FAR REFRAINED FROM COMMENT. EDITORIALS HAVE ALL EXPRESSED INDIGNATION AND CALLED FOR INVESTIGATION AND FOR PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY PARTIES. SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE DAMAGE TO NEPAL'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND FEAR THAT THE SCANDAL MIGHT HAVE AN EFFECT ON AID DONORS. ONE PAPER HAS PUBLISHED THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL NEPAL AIRLINE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE TIME PAYMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE IN 1972. (ONE OF THEM, INCIDENTALLY, WAS MAJOR GEN. PADMA BAHADUR KHATRI, CURRENTLY NEPAL'S
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AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON).

3. THE BOEING REVELATIONS, COMING AS THEY DO AT A TIME WHEN CORRUPTION IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WHIPPING BOYS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKERS, EDITORIAL WRITERS, AND THE KING HIMSELF, PROVIDE A CONVENIENT SUBJECT FOR RENEWED THUNDERING. THIS

TIMING ALSO PUTS HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE GON TO CONDUCT
A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION, MAKE THE FACTS KNOWN TO THE
PUBLIC, AND ACT AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED.
HECK

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Message Attributes

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